

REMARKS

Claims 10-15 and 26-36 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 14 has been withdrawn pursuant to an election of species. Claim 11 has been amended herein. Claims 10, 26, 28, 31, 33, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 24, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-§103

Claims 10, 26, 28, 31, 33, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parker (US 5,076,242) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claims 10, 26, 28, 31, 33, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-13, 15, 27, 30, 32, 34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Parker in view of AAPA, in view of Martin (US 4,886,305) and further in view of O'laughlin (US 1,986,010). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 11 recites, in relevant part, "wherein a ring braze is disposed on a release mouth of the concave portion of the second connecting portion, which is formed on a cylindrical surface of the second opening."

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Parker, Martin, and the AAPA fail to teach a brazing material for connecting the pipe into position, but asserts that

O'Laughlin cures this deficiency. Applicant respectfully submits that O'Laughlin does not teach the features recited in claim 11.

O'Laughlin teaches providing brazing material 7 at an **end** portion of a pipe 11. However, O'Laughlin does not teach "a ring braze is disposed **on a release mouth** of the concave portion of the second connecting portion, which is formed on a cylindrical surface of the second opening". An exemplary embodiment of this structure is shown in Fig. 17 of the present application. Note that the ring braze 622 is located not at the end of the inner pipe 102, but on a release mouth 623(a) of the concave part 623. O'Laughlin does not teach or even suggest the structure recited in claim 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is patentable over O'Laughlin and the other Applied references and respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Further, claims 12, 13, 15, 27, 30, 32, 34, and 36 all depend from claim 1 and, Applicant respectfully, submits are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well.

Conclusion

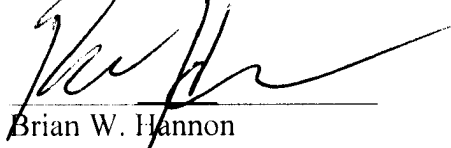
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/798,359

Attorney Docket No.: Q80302

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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